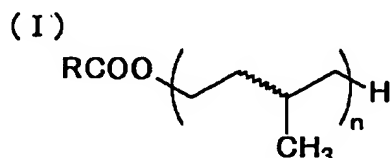


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An improver for bone metabolism comprising, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R represents a hydrocarbon functional group derived from a fatty acid having 14 to 22 carbon atoms, the wavy line means a ~~single or double bond~~, and n represents an integer of 4 ~~ranging from 1 to 14~~, and the alcohol constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is geranyl genraniol ~~provided that when n is 2 or higher, the wavy lines may be the same or different.~~

Claim 2 (Original): The improver for bone metabolism of claim 1, wherein it comprises the following components (A) and (B):

(A) chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the general formula (I);
and

(B) at least one member selected from the group consisting of
pharmaceutically acceptable bases, carriers, excipients, binders, disintegrators,

lubricants, coloring agents, pH controlling agents, buffering agents, stabilizers, solubilizing agents, film-forming agents, diluents, slurry-forming agents, tackifiers, emulsifying agents and surfactants.

Claim 3 (Original): An inhibitor for bone absorption comprising chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the general formula (I) set out in claim 1.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ A promoter for bone formation comprising chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the general formula (I) set out in claim 1.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The improver for bone metabolism of claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein the fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a linear unsaturated fatty acid.

Claim 7 (Original): The improver for bone metabolism of claim 6, wherein the linear unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of n-6 type unsaturated fatty acids, n-3 type unsaturated fatty acids and conjugated fatty acids.

Claim 8 (Original): The improver for bone metabolism of claim 7, wherein the n-6 type unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a

member selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, γ -linolenic acid, bis-homo- γ -linolenic acid and arachidonic acid.

Claim 9 (Original): The improver for bone metabolism of claim 7, wherein the n-3 type unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of α -linolenic acid, stearidonic acid, eicosatetraenoic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid.

Claim 10 (Original): The improver for bone metabolism of claim 7, wherein the conjugated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of conjugated linoleic acid and α -eleostearic acid.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Original): The improver for bone metabolism of claim 1, wherein the alcohol constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is one derived from vegetable oils and fats.

Claims 13-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Original): The improver for bone metabolism of claim 1, wherein the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is one derived from vegetable oils and fats.

Claim 17 (Original): A prophylactic or therapeutic agent for osteoporosis comprising, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the general formula (I) set out in claim 1.

Claim 18 (Original): An agent for the skin for improving bone metabolism comprising, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the general formula (I) set out in claim 1.

Claim 19 (Original): A food or beverage for improving bone metabolism comprising, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the general formula (I) set out in claim 1.

Claim 20 (Original): The food or beverage for improving bone metabolism of claim 19, wherein the food or beverage is a processed food.

Claim 21 (Original): The food or beverage for improving bone metabolism of claim 20, wherein the processed food is a blend oil and fat or a food prepared by adding oils and fats to food materials.